



Home Care in the Commonwealth

I would like to take this opportunity to promote National Home Care Month and let residents know how easily they can access services for themselves, a friend or a loved one.

Home care is an often invisible, but an essential and cost effective service allowing people in our communities to manage a chronic disease such as diabetes or COPD. Home health services help people recover in their own home following a hospitalization and retain their independence for as long as possible.

For people seeking services in their home, the Commonwealth has a web-based directory called MADIL, short for Massachusetts Aging and Disability Information Locator, which is available at www.MADIL.org. The site includes the 800-Age-Info database (also available by phone) that encompasses the state's elder services

organizations that can connect people with Meals on Wheels, transportation to medical appointments, and homemaking services, among other things.

For those needing a higher level of care, MADIL also includes information from the non-profit Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, including data on 200 home care agencies that provide a broad range of services, from skilled nursing or therapy care to aide and companion services. Many of these home care agencies are certified to provide Medicare and Medicaid-reimbursed care when called for while others offer privately-paid services that can help someone prepare a meal, take a bath or shower, or even get to an important medical appointment. All kinds of information on home care, including information on how to find a job in home care, is available on www.thinkhomecare.org.

For those eligible for MassHealth, a number of other service options are available from home health care and adult day health, to personal care attendants and durable medical equipment. More information on that can be accessed by calling 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people with partial or total hearing loss). For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office at **(617) 722-2637**.

Massachusetts State House: More 2013-2014 Legislative Highlights

We have had a successful two-year session. Here are some more legislative highlights that benefit seniors:

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Highlights

- **Home Care**— Waitlists were eliminated thanks to additional funding secured for this program in FY2015.
- **Councils on Aging**—Secured funding to bring back innovation grants for Councils on Aging which fund proposals for new programs at COAs including: job search services, benefits screening tools, transportation to regional Councils on Aging and enhanced benefits screening for seniors.
- **Elder Protective Services**—Appropriated \$50,000 to establish a financial abuse specialist team that will assist elder protective service workers.
- **Nursing Homes**—Approved changing the base reimbursement year for nursing homes from 2005 to 2007. This will help ensure that nursing homes are reimbursed for an amount that more closely reflects their current costs of providing care.

Hogan's Office Hours

There will be no office hours in December. If you need assistance contact my office at **(617) 722-2692** or email Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov.

I would like to wish you and your families a very happy and safe holiday season!

Kate Hogan